

Torrance Pictorial

THERE'S A 'NEW' GAME ON ICE . . . GROWTH IN POPULARITY OF CURLING SEEN IN TORRANCE



THIS IS THE BUSY SCENE at the Olympic Ice Arena on Monday and Sunday evenings from six to eight, and on Wednesdays from ten until midnight, when the curlers gather. Curling is new to Torrance, but is a game that dates back to the Sixteenth Century in Scotland.

There's a "new" game to Torrance going on-out at the Olympic Ice Arena, on Western Ave. at W. 238th St., but it's an old game that's been going on for hundreds of years in Scotland.

The game is known as curling. Curlers flock over the ice at the Olympic three nights a week, Mondays and Sundays from six to eight, and Wednesdays from ten until midnight.

The game was brought to Torrance by Canadians who have made their home here, but its popularity is growing among Americans, too.

For those who do not understand the game, granite stones weighing 44 pounds are slid down a course of ice, 127 feet long.

The idea of the game is to place the granites in the bulls eye — or house.

Scoring is similar to horse shoes, in that the stones closest to the center count.

In play, two rinks (teams) of four persons each compete.

Strength or physical prowess are not needed in order to curl, and you don't even have to know how to skate.

Some of the things that curlers say make their game popular are:

Age is not a barrier. People actively compete from 14 years of age to 70.

The game is played by both men and women.

The game is "famous for good sportsman-like conduct."

The credit historically is given to the Scottish for starting curling, but the game might also have originated in Rome or Belgium.

This shows that the origin is truly lost in the mists of time.

However, the Scots made curling famous.

The name Torrance also came from Scotland, and got here first.

Hugh Torrance left Scotland on the first move of the name west in 1663.

Curling was going on among the Scottish Torrances long before then.

One old stone preserved in a Scottish museum bears the date 1510.

It took a long time, but Torrance and curling finally came together again in this country.

If you want to see curlers curl, they are at it busily three nights a week, eight to nine months a year.

If you'd like to curl, call Jim McCurdy at DA 5-0532 or Ben Scott at DA 6-8774.

The Granite Curling Club, of Torrance, is sending two teams, or rinks, to the California Bonspiel, Feb. 8.

Winner goes to the national in Duluth. The winner of the national goes to Scotland for the international bonspiel, or tournament.



FAST AND FURIOUS action goes on as sweeper Lloyd Coventry tries to smooth the ice so the granite of his rink, or team, can go farther to get nearer to "home." Players wear all sorts of footwear, toe rubbers over shoes like Lou, snowboots for those prone to cold feet, and even sneakers.



THIS IS the rest of the picture you saw in last Wednesday's Press. It shows Glen Price, 22610 Kathryn Ave., Torrance, letting go of his 44-pound granite as it goes on its way home at the other end of the ice, or "sheet," as it is called by curlers. The broom is used to sweep in front of the granite to smooth its way and make it go farther, when distance is desired.



WHIPPING THE ICE with their brooms are Frank Davies and Iona Elmer as Paul Gouin comes up as reinforcements. Looking on casually is Don Bryan in the background. He's on other side. As the curlers say, "curling beats fun!"

PRESS PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SCHELL, JR.

IT'S A FIRST NIGHT curling for Lenn Kanzler, of 24005 Fulmer, Lomita, and from the look in his eyes he seems to be having fun. Those who want to try curling, but aren't sure whether they would like it or not, are invited to come to the Olympic Ice Arena on Sunday evenings. That night's a special night for beginners.



THE SWEEPERS are Mr. and Mrs. Ben H. Scott of 2114 W. 230th Place, Torrance, helping the granite of their rink, or team, go nearer to home, or the center from which measurements are made, much like in horseshoes. Scott is president of the Granite Curling Club of Torrance. Mrs. Scott is more familiarly known as Yvonne.



SLIGHTLY ASPRAWL is Eunice Morrow, 21324 Broadwell, Torrance, as she releases her granite. Lou Adelman, 16803 Faysmith Ave., Gardena, broom in hands, watches to see how true her granite goes toward the mark.



MEASURING THE GRANITE'S distance from home is done in this manner. Left to right are Lenn Kanzler, Louis Bereskin, Bill Hansen, Don Bryan and George West. Hansen, Bryan and West are members of the two Torrance club rinks which will go to Mountainview, Calif., Feb. 8 to take part in the California Men's Bonspiel (or tournament). Winner of the California event will represent the state in the national bonspiel at Duluth, March 9 and 10. The national winner will go to Scotland for the international bonspiel.